THE COPIE OF HIS MAIESTIES LETTER, SENT ON TVESDAY THE 26. OF Iune 1604: signifying his Highnes *pleasure to the Commons House of Parliament, in the matter of Subsidie.*

AT LONDON
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HAuing beene informed, that within the space of these eight or tenne daies past, there hath been diuers times speeches made in the Lower House of our Commons for a Subsidie to be at this time granted vnto vs, we haue thought

it conuenient that yee ſhould in our name acquaint the Houſe with the ſincere truth of our meaning in that matter, to the end that they being at a point in that queſtion, may with the greater expedition conclude ſuch ſpeciall things as are neceſſarie to bee done before the ending of this ſo longſome Seſsion of Parliament.

It is true that euer before and a certaine ſpace after the ſitting downe of this Parliament, we were conſtantlie reſolued neither to thinke, nor in caſe it had been offred vnto vs, any waies to haue accepted a Subſidie at this time: For as in our firſt ſpeech to this whole Parliament, wee declared how vnwilling wee ſhould euer be to be a burden to our people; ſo thought we it an vnfit time, at our firſt Parliament, after our ſo happie and peaceable entrie in this kingdom with ſo great and general an applauſe, for hauing a Subſidie raiſed vpon them, notwithſtanding

ding of our preſent great neceſsitie, and that thorough the occaſion of diuers great expences, whereunto wee were driuen at our firſt entrie here. But after the aſſembling of this Parliament, wee were ſo often dealt with and informed by diuers members of that Houſe, that were otherwiſe ſtrangers to our affaires, that it was a thing both honourable and reaſonable, that a Subſidie ſhould bee granted vnto vs; that both our neceſsity required it, and the people in their loue were readie to offer it vnto vs; That it was euer the forme of all Kings of England to haue a Subſidie giuen them at the very firſt aſſembling of their firſt Parliament: That as it was honourable for vs to receiue it, (being an earneſt penie of the peoples loue toward vs) ſo would it be a thing nothing preiudiciall nor hurtfull for them to yeeld vnto; and that there was enow in that Houſe that were ſtriuing amongſt themſelues,

who

who ſhould bee the firſt propounder thereof, as at the laſt we were mooued to bee contented that ſome ſhould prooue the Houſes minde in it. Onely in this point were wee carefull that in caſe it were propounded and put to a queſtion, it ſhould receiue no publike refuſall, which could not but be diſhonorable vnto vs, eſpecially in the ſight of all the ſtrangers that are now here. But hauing now with time more narrowly examined both the cuſtome in the like caſes at the firſt Parliaments of our predeceſſors here; as likewiſe that the laſt Termes payment of the old great Subſidie is not yet come; ſo as a double burden ſhall appeare to be laid vpon the people, and yet our commoditie neuer a haire the neerer: We haue hereupon concluded with our ſelfe to reſort to our former determination, and therefore is it our expreſſe will that yee ſhall in our name ſignifie to our ſaid Houſe of Commons,

mons, that we desire thē at this time not to meddle any further with that question, assuring them in the word of a King, that we will be so farre from taking it vnkindlie their not offring it vnto vs at this first Session of this our first Parliament, as by the contrarie we will onely interprete it to proceede from the care they haue that our people should not haue any occasion of distaste of vs offred vnto them at this time, for the reasons aboue mentioned: assuring our selfe that the said House will in the owne time bee carefull to see our state supplied by such meanes, as may bee most conuenient for our weale, and least hurtfull to our Subiects, wherin we remit our selfe to their discreete considerations in the due time.

James R.